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NPIC/R-1452/63

September 1963

S-9542

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY CAYO FRANCES, CUBA

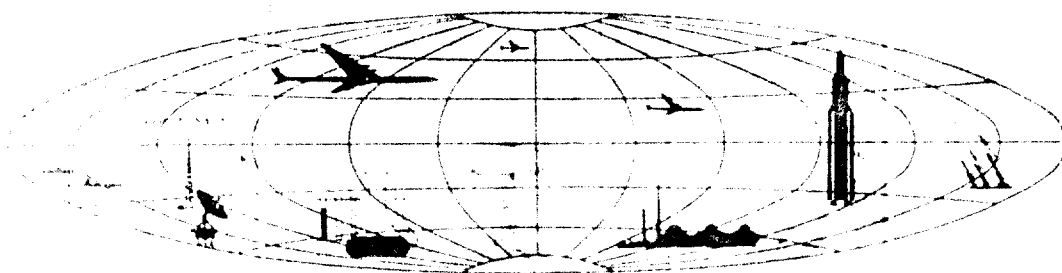


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NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



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CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY, CAYO FRANCES, CUBA

This report was prepared in response to various NSA and DIA requirements concerning construction of an unknown nature on Cayo Frances, Cuba (Figure 1), and other possibly related activities. There is no photographic evidence at this time to indicate the construction of missile or electronic facilities on Cayo Frances, and it is believed that activity on the island is primarily related to oil exploration.

On [] photographic coverage revealed unidentified construction activity on the western tip of Cayo Frances (22-38N 79-13W) consisting of a series of footings in an area approximately 370 by 30 feet. These footings have been completed to form 30 rows of 5 footings each, but no additional activity has been observed there through [] and the exact purpose of the footings remains undetermined.

Comparison with footings near Mariel at La Boca (23-01N 82-45W) and the reported

activity at Isle de Turiguando (22-15N 78-54W) proved to be negative. Also, the Cayo Frances footings were compared with those supporting the interferometer at the Byarakan Astrophysical Observatory, USSR, and it is not believed they are intended to support an interferometer of that type.

However, since February 1963 the construction of a drilling rig has been observed south of the footings (Figure 2). On [] this lattice-type rig appeared complete, measuring 195 feet in height. A small vertical storage tank with a diameter of 20 feet has been constructed 350 feet east of the drilling rig.

In addition, road construction leading east along the northern coast is probably associated with oil exploration activity, and ground scarring at the terminus of the road (not shown in Figure 2) may be the future location for an additional drilling rig.

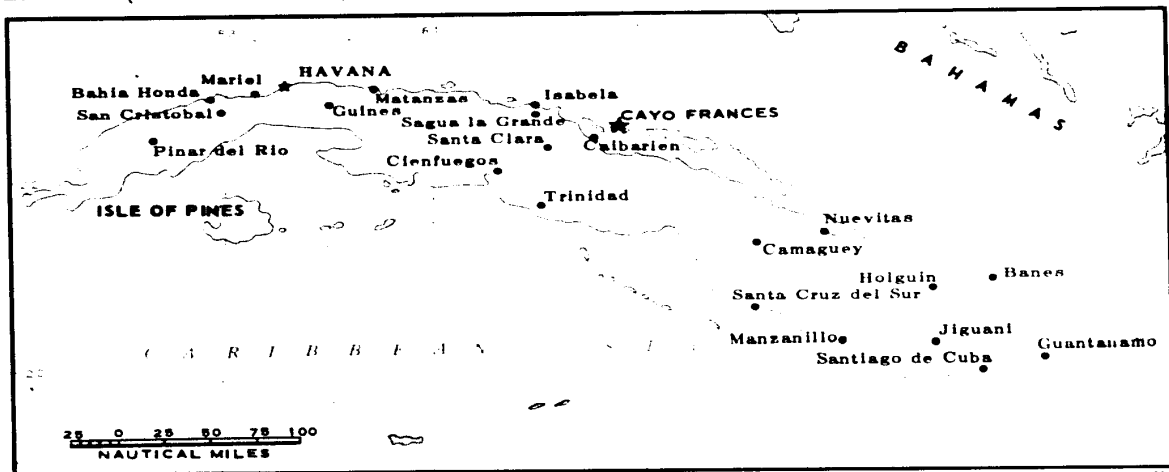


FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF CAYO FRANCES, CUBA.

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FIGURE 2. CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY ON CAYO FRANCES, [REDACTED]

NPIC H-4277 (S 63)

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REFERENCES

PHOTOGRAPHY

<u>Mission</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Camera</u>	<u>Frames</u>	<u>Classification</u>
[REDACTED]				

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MAPS OR CHARTS

AMS. Series E723, Sheet 43-3 I, 1st ed, 1960 (FOR USE OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ONLY)

REQUIREMENTS

NSA. NSA/PO56/R-28/63

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NPIC PROJECT

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